

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 CAIRO 09785 031555Z

47

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 031500Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 585

S E C R E T CAIRO 9785

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECDEF, CNO AND CTF 65

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MPOL EG US

SUBJECT: GOE DECISION NOT TO HAVE ANY PUBLIC

CEREMONY UPON COMPLETION OF CTF-65 MISSION

1. AS DEPT IS AWARE, CTF-65 EXPECTS TO TERMINATE ITS MISSION IN MID-DECEMBER. ADMIRAL CARROLL AS WELL AS USS BOULDER WILL DEPART AROUND THAT TIME. SMALL RESIDUAL FORCE WILL PRESUMABLY REMAIN AT ISMAILIA. GOE, IN PERSONS OF SCA CHAIRMAN MASHOUR AND CNO VICE ADMIRAL ZIKRY, HAD EARLIER PLANNED A CEREMONY FOR THE OCCASION. US, BRITISH AND FRENCH AMBASSADORS, ALONG WITH ADMIRAL CARROLL AND HEADS OF BRITISH AND FRENCH NAVAL CONTINGENTS, WERE TO PARTICIPATE. WIDE PUBLICITY WAS TO BE GIVEN TO THE EVENT.

2. APPARENTLY NEITHER MASHOUR NOR ZIKRI HAD CHECKED WITH FAHMY TO SEE IF THERE WERE ANY POLITICAL SENSITIVITIES TO SUCH A CEREMONY. WHEN HE HEARD ABOUT IT, FAHMY WAS FURIOUS AND, ON PRESIDENTIAL INSTRUCTIONS, CANCELLED THE CEREMONY. FAHMY'S ALLEGED REASON FOR NOT WANTING TO PUBLICIZE THE EVENT IS HIS CONCERN THAT THE SOVIETS WILL IMMEDIATELY THEREAFTER ASK TO SEND SEVERAL WARSHIPS THROUGH THE CANAL. WITH BREZHNEV EXPECTED IN MID-JANUARY, SUCH A REQUEST WOULD BE DIFFICULT TO REFUSE IF THE CANAL IS PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGED TO BE CLEAR OF OBSTACLES. FAHMY IS, OF COURSE, EQUALLY AWARE OF THE PRESIDENT'S DECISION TO DEFER FORMAL OPENING OF THE CANAL

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UNTIL THERE IS FURTHER ISRAELI WITHDRAWAL IN SINAI.

3. FAHMY POINTS OUT THAT TECHNICALLY SPEAKING THE CLEARANCE OPERATION WILL NOT YET BE FULLY COMPLETED. MASHOUR HAS TOLD HIM THAT UXO'S AND MINES CONTINUE TO BE FOUND AND THAT EGYPTIAN ENGINEERS AND DIVERS WILL CONTINUE WITH THEIR WORK.

4. FAHMY INDICATED THAT AT SUCH TIME AS GOE FORMALLY OPENS THE CANAL, US NAVY WILL BE ASKED TO PARTICIPATE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO REOPENING WILL BE PUBLICALLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

5. AMBASSADOR HAS INSTRUCTED CTF-65 TO BE GUIDED BY EGYPTIAN DESIRES IN CONNECTION WITH PUBLICITY. MINE/ORDNANCE/ SALVAGE CLEARANCE HAS BEEN WELL DONE AND IS APPRECIATED. WHILE SOME PUBLICITY FOR DEPARTURE CTF-65 IS UNAVOIDABLE AND US NAVY SHOULD RECEIVE PROPER CREDIT FOR ITS CONTRIBUTION, BELIEVE OUR PUBLICITY SHOULD BE LOW KEY AND AVOID CAUSING POLITICAL EMBARRASSMENT FOR GOE. WE WILL WORK OUT WITH CTF-65 APPROPRIATE LOW KEY PRESS GUIDANCE.  
EILTS

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## Message Attributes

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**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
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**Concepts:** MILITARY VISITS, NAVAL SHIPS, USS BOULDER  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Decaption Note:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
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